

Monthly Update – July 2015

# Tanzania Agriculture Productivity Program

## OVERVIEW

USAID-TAPP is increasing incomes for smallholder farmers, improving nutrition, and expanding markets through agricultural innovation and commercialization. The program is part of Feed the Future, the US government's global hunger and food security initiative to break the cycle of hunger and poverty in the developing world. Feed the Future is focusing on the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor (SAGCOT), a region the Tanzanian government has identified as the most conducive for agricultural growth. Working with our partners and the Government of Tanzania, USAID-TAPP is concentrating efforts on selected crops and regions to help transform the country's food security.

## GREENHOUSE AND FARMING AS A BUSINESS EVENTS PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY



Photo by Fintrac Inc

Smallholder farmers, input dealers, and USAID-TAPP staff pose in a tomato demo plot in Morogoro after the field tour.

In the month of July, USAID-TAPP conducted a number of conferences to ensure promoted technology and good agricultural practices continue on after the close of USAID-TAPP. To help promote the sustainability, horticulture partners and stakeholders participated in a greenhouse seminar in Arusha for two days followed by a boot camp. In addition, four *Farming as a Business* conferences were conducted in Arusha, Morogoro, Iringa, and Zanzibar.

The events produced a good response with more than 300 participants. Representatives from Monsanto, Balton Tanzania, Kibo Trading, Affordable Greenhouses, Tanzania Horticulture Association (TAHA) came together with other stakeholders to discuss the future of horticulture development and a sustainable way forward.

The boot camp focused on protected agriculture, emphasizing the impact of weather, pests, high temperatures, and high humidity on production. Farmers and other horticulture stakeholders also discussed how to increase production of high value crops in protected environments.

"I really appreciate the knowledge I have received in this national greenhouse conference, as I never knew all the requirements in running the greenhouse. I will go back with all the necessary information and guidelines. I now know how to control the humidity, pests, and diseases, and I will be an ambassador in greenhouse production in Rungwe," said Irene Silla Ngogo, a participant from Rungwe, Mbeya.

In the *Farming as a Business* event participants visited demonstration plots for training on good agricultural practices. The field visits showcased the use of raised beds, hybrid seeds, seedling production on seedling trays, integrated pest management, and fertigation, among other topics. Participants learned about solutions to most of their horticulture challenges.

"I want to congratulate USAID-TAPP for their tireless efforts towards empowering Iringa smallholder farmers through increasing production and incomes, and connecting them with markets as well as

providing solutions to horticulture problems such as diseases and pests,” said Adam Swai, assistant administrative secretary at the Iringa regional secretariat.

In finalizing the *Farming as a Business* conference, the participants were offered flash drives containing production materials and manuals to help boost their productivity. The information will serve as reference points to the farmers and guide them to sustainable and successful horticulture production.

## UNIVERSITY LAUNCHES PRACTICAL TRAINING CENTER

On the July 20<sup>th</sup>, Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) opened its gates to smallholder farmers, input dealers, students, and horticulture stakeholders to its state-of-the-art practical training center (PTC).

More than 150 participants attended the event which was followed by a comprehensive field training. Companies at the event were given an opportunity to discuss what they provide and what services they offer.



Photo by Fintrac Inc

Farmers and students listening to Deogratius Ndeonio (not pictured) at the SUA PTC launch.

Speaking at the event, SUA vice chancellor, Professor Gerald Mwanyela said that the partnership between, USAID-TAPP, TAHA, IAGRI, and the government will be very useful to the students in the university as well as smallholder farmers in receiving knowledge on horticulture production.

“Efforts to ensure productivity in horticulture have been noticed, with the increase of agricultural products and the government opening up borders to international markets. With this partnership there is hope in further increasing production of fruits and vegetables through trainings and use of good agricultural practices,” added Prof. Mwanyela.

“I am honored to be one of the farmers who will use this facility for training and learn about the different technologies and good agricultural practices. My farm is near the university which gives me the privilege to come and learn whenever I have the chance to do so,” said Daniel Mtiri, one of USAID-TAPP’s farmers who attended the launch of the facility.

The SUA PTC is the third operational PTC set up by a partnership between USAID-TAPP, TAHA, and the government. The other two are the Horticultural Research and Training Institute PTC in Tengeru and Kizimbani Agriculture Training Institute PTC in Zanzibar.

### Tanzania Agriculture Productivity Program

#### “Increased food security through enhanced productivity”

USAID-TAPP is a five-year program implemented by Fintrac Inc. to increase smallholder farmer incomes through enhanced productivity, crop diversification, and improved market access. Visit [www.tanzania-agric.org](http://www.tanzania-agric.org) for more information on upcoming activities and to receive copies of monthly bulletins and success stories.

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